



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

12 FUGITIVE ALIENS ARRESTED BY ICE IN ATLANTA

ATLANTA – Twelve fugitives who were on the run evading lawful orders of removal were arrested here last week by officers assigned to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE's) fugitive operations team.

Among the arrested was Francisco Santiago-Antonio, 24, a citizen of Honduras who had been hiding since July 2000. Santiago-Antonio entered the country illegally on July 16, 1999 via Laredo, Texas. He was found ineligible for any form of immigration relief and was ordered removed by an immigration judge in July 2000. His criminal history includes resisting arrest and assault with a deadly weapon.

"We are committed to restoring integrity to our nation's immigration system by identifying and removing those with no legal right to remain in the country," said John A. Mata, field office director for detention and removal in Atlanta. "Those who think they can evade justice are sorely mistaken."

All of those arrested are in ICE custody at the Atlanta Pre-Trial Detention Center awaiting removal from the country.

The Atlanta office is home to one of the 18 absconder teams nationwide tasked with locating and apprehending aliens who attempt to hide in the United States despite the lawful orders of immigration judges who have ordered the aliens to leave the country.

In Atlanta, ICE has arrested more than 600 criminal aliens since the beginning of fiscal year 2005. ICE removed over 3,392 illegal aliens from the Atlanta area in fiscal year 2004; 2,105 were criminal aliens.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.